

They recognized such a life in Christ but its transmission to others was not yet revealed to them: not until they had received it themselves did they know what it was.

The Israelites had divinely ordained ordinances and laws, a divine code of morals. God was with them in their struggles through life but not *in* them.

The church then is an institution different from anything that preceded her, separate and apart from the world, (yet in the world), indwelt and governed by the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit according to His will as revealed in His word or the words of His inspired apostles.

Are the so-called churches today truly such institutions? Is the Brethren church such an institution? Professedly the Brethren church is separate and apart from the world, but is this true practically? Are our conferences governed by the *oneness* of the Holy Spirit, or do we do as the world does, decide matters by a majority vote, right or wrong? In our deliberations and discussions, and decisions do we esteem others better than ourselves? Do we always aim to have the mind of Christ in our zeal for His cause, or do we project our human wisdom and our selfishness into it? Could the politician or the secret order man discover much difference between the spirit and methods that characterize our conference from those that prevail in their own institutions? Are our rules of government culled from the word of God, or do we take some manual of parliamentary law? Has the Holy Spirit the right of way in conferences? How is it brethren?

Then again is the membership of the Brethren church separate and aloof from the world? Are we free from political institutions, or are we mixed in the corrupt politics of the day, or perhaps even aspiring after political office? Are we free from all secret orders, or are we yoked together with unbelievers? If we are not of the world how can we be constituent parts of purely worldly institutions? If our citizenship is in heaven how can it be on earth at the same time? According to the laws of nations one can be a citizen of but one nation at one time. The same law seems to prevail in the spiritual kingdom as is proven by many direct and indirect scriptures.

Again, are we free from what is commonly called patriotism, or are we filled with a spirit of war and vengeance? Are our souls crying for blood, or praying for peace?

Jesus said, My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews. John 18:36. Again he says concerning his disciples, "They are not of the

world, even as I am not of the world." St. John 17:16. If we truly belong to the church of Christ, that is the body of Christ we cannot go further than Jesus the head of the body goes. Just such movements as Jesus would be likely to support we can support, such organizations as he would join, we can join; we cannot with safety go any further, and if we have in a real sense received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we shall not desire to. The Holy Spirit is but the spirit of Christ.

In our individual life have we any assurances that we truly belong to the church, the "called out" people of God? The fact that we have our names upon some so-called church register proves nothing on this point. The fact that we obey simply the ordinances as the Brethren church observes them proves nothing. The fact that we live honest, moral lives proves nothing in itself. The fact that we are charitable and kind proves nothing on the point in question. There are honest, moral, kind Jews; there are honest, moral, kind Catholics; there are honest, moral, charitable Unitarians, and there are here and there honest, loving, lovely people that do not make any profession, are any or all of these members of the true church of Christ?

Some of the vital questions we should ask ourselves are, Have I partaken of the divine nature? Have I received the Holy Spirit? Have I consciously been lifted out of my carnal natural life into the divine life of Christ? Have I been separated from or "called out" from the world into a heavenly life? Am I living for this life, or the life that is to come, or is the life that is to come simply a side issue with me?

As tests we may ask ourselves what kind of reading interests us most, secular or religious, or what kind of society do I enjoy the better, light and gay, or sober and grave, or where would I rather go, to church fairs and festivals, or holiness prayer meetings, or how do I like to dress, in a plain simple manner, or according to the popular fashions of the world, or am I of a meek and quiet spirit or am I irritable, cross and revengeful?

If we are members of the true church of Christ we will have the spirit of Christ, and if we have the spirit of Christ we will bring forth the fruit of the spirit; these characteristics are inseparable.

I am aware that this is not popular theology but I learn it to be the theology of the New Testament, consequently teach it with all the ability the Lord may give me.

To aspire after a joint heirship with Christ is a high aim which can only be attained to by a life of great self-denial, and even suffering, it behooves us therefore to make the most rigid self-examin-

ation to see where we stand, whether we are in fact members of the true church of Christ, the mystical, spiritual body of which Christ is the head.

#### WORK FOR ALL

L. G. WOQD,

Harvest is now at hand and those having wheat are active and alive to the ingathering of the grain and it is right they should be. Truly there is work for all in this part of the country. There is also a work for every child of God to do, will we do that work?

It is a very busy time indeed, but let us as members of Christ's body and alive from the dead, take time for an occasional glance over the Lord's field. We cannot help seeing the souls of men dying and the Master calls for thee. Almost six months of this year have passed. Are we half way across the field of resolution which we surveyed on New Year's day? May the Lord fill us with the spirit of life which is a missionary spirit, for if we possess a new life we want to lead others to the same blessed fountain of life. If we are Christ's then we are lively stones. Then let us change the above heading and be ready "for all work."

Mulvane, Kans.

#### THE "WORD"

ZED. H. COPP

In studying the events of Creation week I am most of all impressed with the awful results attending the simple statement that God said, "Out of darkness, confusion and death there came forth light, order and life." Finally He said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness," and the chief end of creation was attained. Not long after, this same man, foolishly seeking for knowledge, lost his wisdom; started to walk by sight, stumbled and fell, and arose broken in divine image, effaced in divine likeness. It was then that the divine mind became active through love to mend the image and restore the likeness. As with the creation of man so with his recreation, for God says to all his "sons," "Let us make man in our image after our own likeness." It "becomes us" therefore who are "laborers together" with him to be about our "Father's business." It matters not how great the lack of divine form or how void of understanding a righteous soul may be yet is it "quickened" by the Word, in season, out of season, in the pulpit, in the home, in the street, everywhere, for God hath said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Therefore wherever any man is found being in any other than the divine image and bearing any other than the divine likeness is our co-operative re-creative work. Speak the Word only, for it is